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Project title: Resolution declaring Climate Emergency and calling for actions to restore a safe Climate.



Council Bill #

Project: Climate Emergency Resolution

Agenda dates requested:

1-29-20

Partner/Supplier :

Location: City wide

Preceding action: 1-8-20, 1-22-20

Fund:

Briefing

Proposed action

Consent

Action X

Ordinance

Public hearing

Yes

No

Budget amendment:

Yes

No

PowerPoint presentation:

Yes

No

Attachments:

Department(s) involved:

Contact person:

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City Council Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Project summary statement:

The Everett City Council finds that climate change poses an existential **threat to public health, safety and welfare**, in Everett, Washington State, the United States and across the globe. The emergent nature of this threat requires immediate and ongoing actions, **including a transition to a clean energy economy**, and mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The Everett City Council recognize that responding to climate change requires **coordination** with other entities including local, regional and state governments, private sector, **higher education**, labor and non-governmental organizations. The City will work with other **public and private** organizations in developing policy recommendations and actions.

The Everett City Council will annually review these policy actions to determine **their potential** to reduce GHG emissions, respond to climate change, support sustainability, and **prescribe** such other measures as they may deem necessary. The City Council will seek **public involvement** in implementing climate action plans.

Initialed by:


Department head

Administration


Council President

Recommendation (exact action requested of Council):

Adopt Resolution declaring a Climate Emergency and calling for actions to restore a safe climate.



A RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND CALLING FOR ACTIONS TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS,

1. The greenhouse gas effect, trapping gases and warming earth's atmosphere, has been well documented for over 150 years; and
2. In 1896 Svant Arrhenius, a Swedish physicist and chemist who received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1903, was the first to use basic principles of chemistry and physics to estimate how increases in carbon dioxide can increase Earth's temperature; and
3. In 1960 Dr. Charles David Keeling was the first to measure the progressive buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (the Keeling Curve), and alert the world to the possibility of anthropogenic global warming; and
4. Keeling's research documented atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide growing from 315 parts per million (ppm) in 1958 to 380 ppm in 2005, with increases correlated to fossil fuel emissions with a cumulative effect; and
5. Today carbon dioxide levels are in excess of 410 ppm, estimated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to be the highest atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide in 3 million years, when earth's temperature was 2° to 3° Celcius (3.6° to 5.4° Fahrenheit) higher than during the pre-industrial era, and sea level was 15 to 25 meters (50 to 80 feet) higher than today; and
6. Carbon dioxide levels have been steadily increasing unabated since measurements began. Once in the atmosphere and oceans, they remain for centuries resulting in significant cumulative impacts. There is a lag between the release of carbon dioxide (and other greenhouse gases (GHG)) and impacts such as warmer atmosphere and oceans, extreme weather events, fires and sea level rise; and
7. Other GHGs contribute to global warming including methane, nitrous oxide, chlorofluorocarbon, and water vapor. Of these, methane exists in large and rapidly increasing concentrations. It is many times more powerful as a heat trapping gas than carbon dioxide, and due in part to warmer temperatures and natural gas extraction, is being released in larger amounts; and

8. World leaders have been briefed on the science and consequences of global warming and climate change since the 1960s. In the 1970s. Congressional leaders held the first hearings on the impacts of GHGs and climate change, and in 1988 UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was the first global leader to call for action; and
9. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), considered the world authority, has issued many reports on climate change beginning in 1990. In October of 2018, IPCC published a special report, "Global Warming of 1.5C," addressing the Paris Agreement targets of no more than a 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius increase in average global temperature, strengthening the global response and calling for immediate public and private sector actions to reduce GHGs; and
10. The 2018 IPCC 1.5C report documents the effects of 1.5 degrees Celsius warming including: extreme heat, storm events, floods, droughts, fires, sea level rise, disruption to agriculture, health risks, and loss of bio-diversity. All of these effects significantly increase with warmer temperatures; and
11. The "Fourth National Climate Assessment," published by the United States in 2018, identifies changes by regions, and in the Pacific Northwest these include: increases in temperature, large wildfires, reductions in glaciers and snowpack, drought and water scarcity, warmer ocean temperatures, increased frequency and intensity of storm events, ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms, species migration, social disruption and more; and
12. Historical statistical frameworks for measuring storms, fires, droughts and other climate impacts are no longer valid predictors of future events which are increasing in frequency and intensity in relationship to increases in temperature; and
13. According to the IPCC, pathways limiting global warming to 1.5C require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land use, infrastructure (transportation and buildings), and other areas, resulting in deep emission reductions and scaling up of investments. These systems transitions are unprecedented in terms of scale and have been compared historically to preparations for World War II; and
14. The IPCC reports clearly document a disconnection between what climate science tells us regarding the need for rapid reductions in GHG and transformative actions, and current policy directions; and
15. There is a growing disconnection between generations and an emerging youth movement; as a young generation awakens to the impacts associated with inheriting an ever warming world, and the failure of those in positions of power to respond to what has been known for over forty years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EVERETT CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Everett City Council and Mayor find that climate change poses an existential threat to public health, safety and welfare, in Everett, Washington State, the United States and across the globe. The emergent nature of this threat requires immediate and ongoing actions, including a transition to a clean energy economy, and mitigation and adaptation strategies.

2. The Everett City Council has adopted [should adopt] a Climate Action Plan (CAP) preparing for climate change including recommendations addressing mitigation, adaptation and green economic development. In 2020 the City will select from the plan actions that can be implemented in a short time frame, and will develop further actions requiring longer term development and appropriate budget considerations for FY 2021 and beyond.

3. The Everett City Council and Mayor support actions in energy, land use, infrastructure (transportation and buildings), and other areas, resulting in GHG emission reductions. These include but are not limited to:

A. Adopt and implement a Climate Action Plan including provisions for mitigation, adaptation and green economic development.

B. Support policies at the State and regional level that price carbon, and provide incentives for renewable energy such as solar, wind and bio-fuels. Examples may include low carbon fuel standards, cap and trade and a carbon fee.

C. Support policies at the State level for zero emission vehicle (ZEV) standards. ZEV standards will provide greater electric vehicle options for consumers.

D. Support electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in Everett, the Puget Sound region, and the State of Washington, and work with Snohomish County PUD to ensure the capability to deliver sufficient electrical capacity for future EVs.

E. Support non-motorized transportation (bicycle and pedestrian movement) moving people in ways that reduce GHG emissions.

F. Support land use and transportation policies and transit oriented development that can reduce GHG emissions and create livable communities.

G. Support development of green building materials such as cross laminated timber and other lower carbon materials.

H. Support energy efficiency in buildings and building codes.

4. The Everett City Council and Mayor support green economic development initiatives including working with the higher education community (WSU, Everett Community College and others) to engage in research and development and workforce training. The City will work with the Washington State Department of Commerce as they prepare



recommendations for clean renewable energy and economic development expected in June of 2020.

5. The Everett City Council and Mayor recognize that responding to climate change requires coordination with other entities including local, regional and state governments, private sector, higher education, and non-governmental organizations. The City will work with other public and private organizations in developing policy recommendations and actions.

6. The Everett City Council and Mayor will annually review these policy actions to determine their potential to reduce GHG emissions, respond to climate change, support sustainability, and prescribe such other measures as they may deem necessary. The City Council and Mayor will seek public involvement in implementing climate action plans.

Councilmember introducing resolution
Paul Roberts

Passed and approved this _____ day of January, 2020.

Cassie Franklin, Mayor

Judy Tuohy, Council President

Jeff Moore, Council Member

Scott Murphy, Council Member

Elizabeth Vogeli, Council Member

Scott Bader, Council Member

Brenda Stonecipher, Council Member